

"Bobby" Hyatt of the City of La Vernia in Texas. He has dedicated his career to assisting and protecting the south Texas community through his work and efforts. Chief Hyatt retired from the City of La Vernia Police Department on November 30, 2011, after 17 years of faithful service, making him the longest sitting Chief in the State of Texas.

Mr. Hyatt grew up in San Antonio, Texas, and graduated from Burbank High School. He began his law enforcement career at the young age of 21. Mr. Hyatt joined the San Antonio Police Department in 1963. Chief Hyatt retired from the San Antonio Police Department after 31 years of faithful service on Friday, July 29, 1994, and began work as the Chief of Police for the City of La Vernia on Monday, August 1, 1994. Some of his notable career accomplishments include escorting many dignitaries while they visited the City of San Antonio, including Presidents of the United States and the Queen of England. Towards the end of his career in San Antonio he worked as an applicant processing officer, conducting background checks on new cadet candidates for the San Antonio Police Department.

When he began his tenure in the City of La Vernia, he was the only police officer in the City—making him a vital asset in the area for their law enforcement. When he retired, he had a department consisting of six full-time officers, including him and eight reserve officers. Chief Hyatt retired from the City of La Vernia Police Department on November 30, 2011, after 17 years of committed service. Mr. Hyatt has been married to his wife Pat for 54 years. The couple has three children and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary commitment to former Chief of Police Robert "Bobby" Hyatt for serving and protecting the communities in Texas.

A TRIBUTE TO HEARTSAPART.ORG

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to HeartsApart.org, a truly outstanding organization providing a creative and invaluable service to the men and women of our Armed Forces. As their name implies, HeartsApart.org serves the members of our military while they are apart from their hearts—their families and loved ones—as they serve our Nation across the seas and around the world. HeartsApart.org pairs soon-to-be deployed men and women with local photographers, who donate their time, resources, and skills to give soldiers a precious gift: a portrait of their children and spouses. These photographs, printed on waterproof and durable bi-folded cards, which fit securely in a uniform pocket, serve as reminders of home and encouragement for those who serve us so readily.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that HeartsApart.org began as a local organization in my own state of North Carolina. For Wilmington, NC photographer Brownie Harris, it was a way to show his support and apprecia-

tion for America's service members one photo shoot at a time. From humble beginnings and a simple mission, HeartsApart.org has grown to become a national organization, with volunteer photographers in states from Virginia to Nevada and California to Illinois. On April 11, HeartsApart.org was one of 20 organizations honored by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden as finalists for the Joining Forces Community Challenge, an initiative aimed at encouraging citizens to honor, support, and celebrate our military families. The vision and commitment of the staff of HeartsApart.org is to be commended and applauded. Today, I offer my heartfelt thanks to those who give of their time and talents to serve our brave men and women. May God continue to bless their efforts, and may God bless America.

BROOKE BALLANTYNE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brooke Ballantyne for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brooke Ballantyne is an 11th grader at Two Roads High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brooke Ballantyne is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brooke Ballantyne for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

LAUNCH OF NORTH KOREAN MISSILE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, the recent launch of a three-stage rocket by North Korea was a clear provocation that cannot be ignored. Although the launch was a technical failure, it was an aggressive statement that shows the new regime in North Korea intends to continue down the dangerous path of saber rattling to intimidate other nations, particularly South Korea.

For years now, the United States, South Korea, and other countries have been trying to engage the North Korean regime diplomatically to end its program to develop nuclear weapons and the delivery devices that could threaten Northeast Asia and the Western Pacific.

Despite offering many positive incentives in the form of humanitarian aid, the Stalinist government of North Korea has persisted in its belligerence and has stubbornly refused to ad-

here to peaceful international protocols that engender stability and economic prosperity.

By contrast, South Korea is one of the world's most economically successful countries. Many of us have seen that dramatic satellite image of the Korean peninsula at night, which shows South Korea lit brightly while North Korea is in near total darkness. This image serves as a metaphor for the freedom and enlightenment that governs South Korea and the enslavement and barbarism in North Korea. Indeed, were it not for its dalliance with advanced technologies in rockets and nuclear bombs, North Korea could truly be said to be living in the Dark Ages.

My father served in the Korean War. He fought side by side with South Korean soldiers who were struggling to save their homeland from the onslaught of communism. For 60 years, the two Koreas have lived under a fragile armistice that masks a tinderbox threatened by a match held by the Kim family dynasty.

I visited South Korea just last year. I saw economic prosperity and political liberty that never could have been imagined when my father was there in the 1950's.

South Korea is one of the largest trading partners of the United States. The recently implemented U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement will open up many more opportunities for American businesses to engage our Korean partners.

In the 29th congressional district of New York, which I am privileged to represent, farmers, small business owners, and larger firms are already benefiting from the Free Trade Agreement's Launch of North Korean Missile effects. That doesn't even take into account the substantial benefits to consumers who are able to buy high-quality products at lower prices.

Political stability and the security of the Korean Peninsula are vital to U.S. interests and to our allies. Beyond South Korea, nations such as Japan and the Philippines could be threatened by the existence of North Korean nuclear missiles. Further North Korean provocations could easily and seriously disrupt the trans-Pacific trade relations that have developed over the past six decades.

It is the obligation of Congress to speak out when U.S. security and our economic interests are under threat. Even though North Korea's ill-considered missile experiment failed last week, that does not mean that the next launch will fail.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning the Pyongyang regime's belligerent behavior as a threat to regional and global security.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS. IDA COOK-CROWDER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mrs. Ida Cook-Crowder, a long-time member of the Greater Cleveland community.

Born on April 8, 1930, in Marshville, North Carolina, Ida was the daughter of Raymond and Annie Belle Hailey. She moved to Cleveland, Ohio, after graduating from high school.